

(12) UK Patent Application (19) GB (11) 2 180 056 (13) A

(43) Application published 18 Mar 1987

(21) Application No 8521764

(22) Date of filing 2 Sep 1985

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(51) INT CL⁴
F24C 15/00 A61L 9/015

(52) Domestic classification (Edition I)
F4W 1
A5G V

(56) Documents cited
GB 0314141

(58) Field of search
F4W
F4S
A5G
Selected US specifications from IPC sub-class F24C

(54) Domestic fires

(57) A device for creating a recognisable burning smell, e.g. of a peat or log fire, for release into the atmosphere around a fireplace or heating appliance to improve, enhance or even contradict the visual sense of the fire.

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SPECIFICATION

Improvements in fires

5 This invention relates generally to fireplaces or heating appliances, and more particularly to the smells associated therewith.

10 "Fireplace" as used herein means a place which is suitable or intended for the combustion of fuel in a fire, for example, a domestic hearth or stove, and "heating appliance" means an appliance which can be used to provide heat and/or which is intended to resemble a fire, for example, a so-called gas log effect fire or a gas coal-effect fire.

15 One of the appealing features of a log or peat fire burning in a fireplace is that it gives off a rather pleasant smell. Not all fires have this distinction: coal fires, for example give off a slightly acrid smell, while some heating appliances give off no such smell 20 at all.

Accordingly, the present invention provides a fireplace or heating appliance having additionally a device for creating a recognisable burning smell, the device comprising a substance capable of producing 25 such a smell, and means being provided to cause the substance to release the said smell into the surrounding atmosphere.

30 A number of embodiments of the invention are envisaged, and these will now be described by way of example.

The substance from which the burning smell is to be released could in solid, liquid or gaseous form. In solid form, the substance could be a block or pellet which is heated, burned, chemically treated or evaporated to cause the smell to be released into the surrounding atmosphere in molecular or particulate form. In liquid form, the substance could be sprayed, burned or evaporated into the atmosphere, and in gaseous form, the substance could be, for example, 35 released under pressure by means of an aerosol or spray. In each case, the substance is conveniently located in or closely adjacent to the fireplace or heating appliance so that the heat produced thereby can be used to cause the smell to be released. This has 40 the advantage that the smell is released only when the fire is burning in the fireplace or the heating appliance is on.

45 Alternatively, the substance may be spaced from the fireplace or heating appliance so that the heat 50 therefrom does not affect the substance or the release of the smell. In this case, the substance could, for example, be retained in a container having a lid or vent which opens to release the smell.

The smell may be released from the substance 55 continuously while the fire is burning in the fireplace or the heating appliance is on, or intermittently. In the latter case, this could be effected by providing the substance in a gaseous form and releasing it into the surrounding atmosphere in bursts from time to time, 60 for example, from an aerosol or spray.

In the case of a heating appliance, the release of the smell could be arranged to correspond to the supply of gas or electricity to the appliance.

CLAIMS

1. A fireplace or heating appliance having additionally a device for creating a recognisable burning smell, the device comprising a substance capable of producing such a smell, and means being provided to cause the substance to release the said smell into the surrounding atmosphere.

70 2. A fireplace or heating appliance as claimed in claim 1 arranged to release the said smell only when the fire is burning or the heating appliance is on.

3. A fireplace or heating appliance as claimed in claim 2 arranged to release the said smell intermittently when the fire is burning or the heating 80 appliance is on.

4. A fireplace or heating appliance as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the substance is in solid or liquid form and the smell is released by heating, burning or evaporating the substance.

85 5. A fireplace or heating appliance as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the substance is in liquid form and the smell is released by evaporation of the substance.

6. A fireplace or heating appliance as claimed in claim 4 or claim 5 wherein the substance is situated 90 so as to be heated by the heat produced by the fireplace or heating appliance to cause the smell to be released.

7. A fireplace or heating appliance as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the substance is in liquid form and the smell is released by spraying the substance into the surrounding atmosphere.

8. A fireplace or heating appliance as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein the substance is in 100 gaseous form and is released under pressure, for example from an aerosol or spray.

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